



PROSPECT MACHINE PRODUCTS, INC.

February 2, 2011

To: Members of the Legislature's Labor and Public Employees Committee

Subject: Reject HB-5460, An Act Concerning Captive Audience Meeting

Committee Members:

Please vote against HB-5460, which is just another blow against business in this state and the further demonstration of the meddlesome, irritating, and costly folly of your committee.

This act is a potential violation of our First Amendment rights, and should be challenged as such if it were to become law.

Restricting our speech with our employees would be very harmful. We are very active in local and state politics; offering tours and visits to our representatives in which our employees may or may not choose to ask questions or make comments. It's always casual, voluntary, and respectful. We do not care if the representative is Democrat or Republican. We invite representatives primarily to educate them in manufacturing processes, global competitiveness, and the importance of a strong manufacturing base for the state's economy. Further, these visits underscore our firm sense of civic duty to the participatory democratic process.

We also periodically have to discuss our benefits plans whenever a change is proposed or a provider is added or dropped, as well as discuss our Thanksgiving food bank drive and the annual charity at Christmas that we vote to support each year.

I don't understand why you would want to foster these social divisions within our workplace, except for an outright hatred of the private sector.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Laurenzi
President